

Business of the House.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN (Kolar Gold Fields).—I would like to know if the Bills that are put down on the Order paper will be taken up now.

Mr. SPEAKER.—We are now taking up the Mysore Forest Laws (Amendment) Bill.

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA (Nanjan-gud).—Sir, as the Bills that are put down on the Order paper are being changed from time to time, it becomes very difficult for us to come prepared; and even for sending amendments an interval of three days is required. It is very difficult if they are changed from time to time.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I am not aware of that. Of course the Order paper is prepared much earlier. Even there if any Bill is not concluded, it is mentioned in the order paper ‘if not concluded.’

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA.—This was not the order in which it was put down originally, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—When we distribute the agenda before 5’clock, some difficulty sometimes may arise. That is why the Hon’ble Member may be feeling some difficulty. Actually, no difficulty need be felt at all.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—Is it not necessary that at least three days notice in respect of Bills is given, Sir? In respect of certain Bills three days are not allowed.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I do admit that in respect of Bills three days’ notice is necessary. But these are small Bills. That is why we may not insist on three days’ notice. That is why in the case of these small bills, I have relaxed the notice period.

mysore forest laws (amendment) bill, 1958.

Motion to consider.

Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA (Minister for Agriculture).—Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Mysore Forest Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1958, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved:

“That the Mysore Forest Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1958, be taken into consideration.”

Before we proceed, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon’ble Members that the time allotted to this subject in the Business Advisory Committee is one hour.

***Sri H. S. RUDRAPPA.**—Sir, I only wish to say that this is a simple measure and it is not of a controversial nature. Under the existing law, it was not possible to meet the situation so far as smuggling sandalwood is concerned. Therefore the number of cases also was on the increase. Therefore, we had to pass ordinance to meet the situation then. And that ordinance is being replaced by this Bill.

There are three points which have been mentioned in the Bill, Sir. There was some lacuna because they had only mentioned ‘carts’. There was not provision to meet smuggling carried on by means of quicker vehicles of transport such as cars and lorries. Therefore, we had to substitute the word ‘vehicle’ in place of ‘carts’.

The second provision is that the police officer or a forest officer had no power to stop any lorry if he suspects that a particular lorry carries smuggled sandalwood. Therefore, we had to make provision to empower forest officers and police officers to stop whenever they felt that a particular vehicle was carrying smuggled sandalwood.

The third point is that, under the present law, the penalty inflicted was not sufficient to deter people from committing offences in connection with sandalwood. Therefore, we have inserted a clause which enhances the punishments up to one year and fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000.

These are the three provisions that have now been sought to be included in the present law on the subject by means of the Bill placed before the House, and I hope that all the Hon’ble Members who are as jealous as myself and Government in safeguarding Government property, will kindly extend their wholehearted support to this Bill.